

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02014 190726Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 190629Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2014

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2014

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PFOR, TU

SUBJ: NEXT STEPS ON OPIUM ISSUE

REF A) STATE 53298; B) GENEVA 1666

1. AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE ODDS ARE VERY MUCH AGAINST OUR BEING ABLE TO PREVENT THE TURKS FROM AT LEAST A PARTIAL RESCINDING OF THE OPIUM POPPY BAN, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT INDIA'S BEING ASKED TO GROW MORE POPPIES IS BEING CONSTANTLY EMPHASIZED IN THE TURKISH PRESS. IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY REAL CHANCE, THERE MUST BE AN ALTERNATIVE PRESENTED TO THE GOT AND TO THE FORMER POPPY GROWERS AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. THIS SHOULD BE A MAJOR, INTERNATIONALLY SPONSORED ALTERNATIVE. THE KIND I HAVE IN MIND WOULD BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY MCNAMARA THAT THE WORLD BANK IS PREPARED TO TAKE THE LEAD IN AN "INDUS VALLEY TYPE" EFFORT TO DEVELOP THE POPPY REGIONS, PROVIDED GOT MAINTAINS THE PRESENT BAN.

2. THUS THE FOCUS ON MCNAMARA AT THIS POINT SHOULD NOT BE ON GETTING HIM (OR AN IBRD TEAM) OUT HERE FOR A PREMATURE VISIT BUT RATHER ON PERSUADING HIM AND HIS BANK COLLEAGUES TO ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY A READINESS TO UNDERTAKE A MAJOR EFFORT OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 02014 190726Z

THIS KIND. IF MCNAMARA IS PREPARED TO DO THIS, THE TURKS

WILL NOT BE HAPPY BUT WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH A SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM IF THEY DECIDE TO LIFT THE BAN IN THE FACE OF SUCH A PROMISING AND CONSTRUCTIVE ALTERNATIVE.

3. IN ADDITION, IF TURKEY IS "BACKED DOWN" RE ITS INTENTIONS TO RESCIND BAN, US INTERESTS REQUIRE THAT THIS BE DONE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE TURKS CAN SAVE FACE THROUGH ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH AN ECONOMICALLY DESIRABLE AND NON-USG DOMINATED ALTERNATIVE. OTHERWISE, WE WILL HAVE A NEW "JOHNSON LETTER" SITUATION ON OUR HANDS, WHICH IN THE END COULD BE AS SERIOUSLY ADVERSE TO US-GOT RELATIONS AS A UNILATERAL GOT DECISION TO LIFT THE BAN.

4. I DO NOT WISH TO RAISE WITH FONMIN GUNES AT THIS TIME A USG PROPOSAL TO SPEED UP POPPY REGION PROJECTS. ACCUSATIONS ARE GOING TO BE MADE IN ANY EVENT THAT THE USG HAS BEEN PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS (WHICH IT IS NOT). I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO STAY AWAY FROM THE SUBJECT FOR THE PRESENT.

5. WHILE THE VISIT OF CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND RANGEL RESULTED IN USEFUL TALKS BETWEEN THEM AND FORMER POPPY FARMERS, AS WELL AS WITH MP S AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN THESE FARMERS' PLIGHT, IT HAS ALSO TOUCHED OFF A RESURGENCE OF EXTREME NATIONALISM (ARE THE AMERICANS OR ARE THE TURKS RUNNING TURKEY,) WHICH WE EXPECT WILL CONTINUE FOR A NUMBER OF DAYS. IT IS MY JUDGMENT THAT THE ONLY WISE COURSE IN THIS ATMOSPHERE IS FOR THE USG TO CONTINUE IN PRIVATE ITS NO COMPROMISE EYE-BALL TO EYE-BALL CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOT ON THIS SUBJECT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME DOING WHATEVER WE CAN TO LOWER THE PROFILE OF THIS DISPUTE IN THE LOCAL PRESS. WHILE WE ARE MAINTAINING THIS STANCE IN THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD, I URGE THAT A MAJOR BEHIND-THE-SCENES EFFORT BY HIGH LEVEL DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS BE MADE TO GET THE IBRD IN A POSITION, ASAP, TO ANNOUNCE A PROPOSAL OF THE KIND REFERRED TO ABOVE.

6. WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT AN IBRD EFFORT OF THE MAGNITUDE REQUIRED MAY NOT BE FORTHCOMING. IN VIEW OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 02014 190726Z

THIS, IT IS NOT TOO EARLY FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO BE SEARCHING -- AS WE ARE HERE -- FOR OTHER SOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE GOT TO SAVE FACE ON ONE HAND AND ON OTHER HAND GIVE USG CREDIBLE AND RELIABLE ASSURANCES THAT TURK-ORIGINATED POISON WILL NOT RESUME ITS FLOW TO THE US.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, DRUG CONTROL, AGRICULTURAL CONTROLS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA02014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740334/aaaabfds.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A) STATE 53298; B) GENEVA 1666
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEXT STEPS ON OPIUM ISSUE
TAGS: SNAR, PFOR, TU, WORLD BANK, (MCNAMARA, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005